

IN THE CLAIMS

13. (currently amended) A method of achieving electronic business transactions in an electronic business transaction system including a plurality of member sites, a center site, and a network to connect the member sites and the center site to each other, said method comprising:

storing, in an open business information database included in said center site, information of open business issued by a plurality of member sites to find business partners, said information of open businesses describes products and/or services desired to be purchased or being offered for purchase by said member sites;

receiving, in said center site, a request from a member site to access said information of open businesses of said open business information database;

receiving, at said center site, an order specification from said member site, said order specification representing an order by said member site to sell or purchase ~~goods~~products and/or services described by the requested information; and

transmitting, from said center site to an order destination member site, said order specification based on the requested information from said open business information database to initiate a transaction between said member site and said order destination member site.

14. (currently amended) An electronic business transaction system, comprising:

a center site;
a plurality of member sites; and
a network which connects said center site and said member sites to
each other,

wherein said center site comprises:

an open business information database which stores information of
open businesses issued by said member sites to find business partners, said
information of open businesses describes products and/or services desired to be
purchased or being offered for purchase by said member sites,

means for receiving a request from a member site to access
information of open businesses of said open business information database,

means for receiving an order specification from said member site,
said order specification representing an order by said member site to sell or
purchase ~~goods~~products and/or services described by the requested information,
and

means for transmitting, from said center site to an order destination
member site, said order specification based on the requested information from said
open business information database to initiate a transaction between said member
site and said order destination member site.

15. (currently amended) A method of achieving electronic business
transactions in an electronic business transaction system including a plurality of

member sites, a center site, and a network to connect the member sites and the center site to each other, said method comprising:

storing, in an open business information database included in said center site, information of open businesses issued by a plurality of member sites to find business partners, said information of open businesses describes products and/or services desired to be purchased or being offered for purchase by said member sites;

receiving, in said center site, a request from a member site to access information of open businesses of said open business information database stored in said center site;

receiving, at said center site, an order specification from said member site, said order specification representing an order by said member site to sell or purchase ~~goods~~products and/or services described by the requested information; and

receiving, at said center site, a request from an order destination member site to access said order specification so as to respond to said order specification based on said open business information database to initiate a transaction between said member site and said order destination member site.

16. (currently amended) An electronic business transaction system, comprising:

a center site;

a plurality of member sites; and

a network which connects said center site and said member sites to each other,

wherein said center site comprises:

an open business information database which stores information of open businesses issued by said member sites to find business partners, said information of open businesses describes products and/or services desired to be purchased or being offered for purchase by said member sites,

means for receiving a request from a member site to access information of open businesses of said open business information database,

means for receiving an order specification from said member site, said order specification representing an order by said member site to sell or purchase ~~goods~~ products and/or services described by the requested information, and

means for receiving a request from an order destination member site to access said order specification so as to respond to said order specification based on the requested information from said open business information database to initiate a transaction between said member site and said order destination member site.